

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11417 251341Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SCCT-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /085 W

----- 117185

R 251211Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSYKHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT,EG, LY

SUBJ: ABORTED HIJACKING; FOURTH ACCOMPLICE ARRESTED: GOE

CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI ORDERED CLOSED; PRESS PRAISE GOE, FLAYS

LIBYA

1. PRESS AUG 25 REPORTS ARREST OF FOURTH PERSON FOR COMPLICITY  
IN "LIBYAN" HIJACKING OF EGYPTIAN AIRLINE AUG 23. ACCUSED,  
MUHAMMAD MAHDI ABDALLAH, WAS NAMED BY OTHER THREE AS PERSON  
WHO INTRODUCED EGYPTIAN HIJACKER TO PALESTINIAN WHO CAME  
TO TERMS WITH LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE. HIS NATIONALITY NOT  
SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED, BUT PAPERS CREATE IMPRESSION HE IS  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11417 251341Z

EGYPTIAN. HIJACKERS REPORTED INTERROGATED FOR 12 CONTINUOUS

HOURS AUG 24 BY MILITARY PROSECUTOR BUT CONFLICTING STORY SAYS DOCTORS SUPERVISING THEIR TREATMENT DECIDED INTERROGATION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL THEIR HEALTH IMPROVED. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HIJACKERS WILL BE TRIED BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL AUG 31.

2. GOE CONSULATE CLOSED. GUMHURRIYA REPORTS THAT LARG HAS REQUESTED CLOSURE OF EGYPTIAN CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI "IN RETALIATION" FOR RECENT EGYPTIAN DECISION TO CLOSE LIBYAN CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA. LOW KEY TREATMENT OF THIS REPORT REINFORCES IMPRESSION OF GOE EQUANIMITY ON POSSIBILITY OF BREAK IN RELATIONS SET BY QADHAFI FOR SEPT 1.

3. LIBYAN PERIL. PUBLIC IMPRESSION AGAINST THREAT OF LIBYAN SABOTAGE CONTINUES. "ENLARGED CONFERENCE" WITH WESTERN TRIBAL CHIEFS, ASU OFFICIALS AND SENIOR SECURITY OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE HELD AUG 24 IN MERSA MATRUH. WESTERN TRIBES REQUESTED TO ASSIST SECURITY AND FRONTIER FORCES IN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND PROTECTION AGAINST LIBYAN INFILTRATION.

4. PRESS WAS DOWNRIGHT SMUG IN ITS ACCOUNT OF WORLD APPROVAL OF EGYPTIAN HANDLING OF HIJACKING AND INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF "IMMORAL ATTEMPTS BY LIBYAN AGENTS". PAPERS NOTED FATAH CONDEMNATION AND CALL FOR URGENT TRAIL OF HIJACKERS, ALONG WITH OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV DENUNCIATION AND PURPORTED AMERICAN MEDIA DESCRIPTION OF "SPECTACULAR" EGYPTIAN OPERATION. AHAM, DOUBTLESS WITH MEMORY OF ENTEBBE FRESH IN MIND, CONSIDERED EGYPTIAN HANDLING OF HIJACKING PROOF OF EGYPTIAN FORCES HIGH DEGREE OF READINESS, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND PREPAREDNESS FOR SACRIFICE. OPERATION "BOOSTED EGYPTIAN REPUTATION" PARTICULARLY SINCE IT CARRIED OUT WITHOUT SINGLE FATALITY OR "SHEDDING OF HUMAN BLOOD" (HIJACKERS DON'T COUNT). AKHBAR EDITORIAL, "A GOOD LESSON FOR TERRORISTS", AGAIN AFFIRMED UNCOMPRISING EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. "UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION" BY ARAB COUNTRIES OF PIRACY AND TERRORISM "IS INSUFFICIENT" UNLESS COVERTED INTO PRACTICAL STEPS.

5. LIBYAN MADMAN. INDEFATIGABLE AKHBAR EDITOR AHMED ZAYN BLASTED QADHAFI'S UNRECONSTRUCTED MADNESS. SAID THAT ARAB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11417 251341Z

TACTIC OF DISASSOCIATION FROM QADHAFI IN HOPE HE WOULD COME TO HIS SENSES HAS OBVIOUSLY FAILED AND STRESSED THAT QADHAFI GAME "THREATENS HIS OWN NECK."

6. ALL PAPERS CARRY PRIMIN SALIM'S REMARKS TO POLITICAL BUREAU OF ASU THAT "EGYPT WILL NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO CHILDISH TRIVIALITIES" OF QADHAFI AND THAT "EGYPT AND THE ARAB NATIONAL WILL NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM". THESE ARE AT

GREAT VARIANCE WITH PRESIDENT'S STRONG PUBLIC POSITION  
THAT QADHAFI WILL PAY THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS CRIMES AND MAY  
SIGNAL A CHANGE IN GOE PUBLIC POSTURE. OR MAYBE SALIM JUST  
HASN'T GOTTEN THE WORD.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ARRESTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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GOE, FLAYS LIBYA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, EG, LY  
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